

## IN THE CLAIMS

Change "Patent Claims:" to --We claim --.

Please amend the following claims.

1           1. (Currently Amended) A spinneret for spinning thermo-  
2 plastics with comprising a central polymer melt inlet passage, a  
3 ~~filer filter~~ arrangement ~~(2)~~ comprised comprising of a plurality  
4 of filter disks of different filter fineness which are fixedly  
5 bonded together by cold pressing, a spinneret plate ~~(3)~~ and a  
6 housing ~~(1)~~, which closely surrounds and receives the filter  
7 arrangement ~~(2)~~ and the spinneret plate, ~~(3)~~ ~~characterized in that~~  
8 said filter arrangement ~~(2)~~ has no being free from a sealing  
9 enclosure and ~~is~~ comprised of a material with a higher thermal  
10 expansion coefficient than that of the material from which the  
11 housing ~~(1)~~ surrounding it is fabricated so that a press-fit seal  
12 able to sustain pressure of a polymer melt is formed directly  
13 between said filter arrangement and said housing.

1                   2. (Currently Amended) A spinneret for spinning of  
2 thermoplastics ~~having~~ comprising a central polymer melt inlet  
3 passage, a filter arrangement ~~(2)~~ comprised of ~~one or more at least~~  
4 ~~one filter disks~~ disk of different filter fineness and optional  
5 ~~type~~, a spinneret plate ~~(3)~~ and a housing ~~(1)~~ surrounding and  
6 receiving the filter arrangement ~~(2)~~ and the spinneret plate, ~~(3)~~  
7 characterized in that the spinneret plate ~~(3)~~ is being comprised  
8 of a material with a higher thermal expansion coefficient than that  
9 of the material from which the housing (1) surrounding it is  
10 fabricated, so that a press-fit seal able to sustain pressure of a  
11 polymer melt is formed directly between said spinneret plate and  
12 said housing.

1                   3. (Currently Amended) A spinneret for spinning of  
2 thermoplastics ~~having~~ comprising a central polymer inlet passage,  
3 a ~~filer~~ filter arrangement ~~(2)~~ comprised consisting of a plurality  
4 of filter disks of different filter fineness which are fixedly  
5 bonded together by cold pressing with one another, and a spinneret  
6 plate ~~(3)~~ and a housing ~~(1)~~ closely surrounding and receiving the  
7 filter arrangement ~~(2)~~ and the spinneret plate, ~~characterized in~~  
8 ~~that the said filter arrangement (2) has no~~ being free from any  
9 sealing enclosure, ~~and the said filter arrangement (2) and the said~~  
10 spinneret plate ~~(3)~~ are being comprised of materials with a higher  
11 thermal expansion coefficient than the material from which the  
12 housing ~~(1)~~ surrounding them is fabricated so that press-fit seals

13 able to sustain pressure of a polymer melt are formed directly  
14 between said filter disks and said housing and between said  
15 spinneret plate and said housing.

1           4. (Currently Amended) The spinneret according to  
2 claim 1, claim 2, or claim 3 ~~characterized in that wherein the~~  
3 spinneret plate (3) and/or the filter arrangement (2) are composed  
4 of austenitic steel ~~like for example~~ selected from steel Nos.  
5 1.4301, 1.4541[, ] and 1.4580 ~~or a material~~ with a ~~similarly~~  
6 relatively high thermal expansion coefficient and ~~that the housing~~  
7 ~~(1) surrounding them is fabricated from a material with a lower~~  
8 ~~coefficient of thermal expansion like, for example steel No. 1.4057~~  
9 ~~or a similar chromium steel or refractory material.~~

1           5. (Currently Amended) The spinneret according to claim  
2 1, claim 2 or claim 3 characterized in that the dimensioning is  
3 so selected that the fit between the outer diameter of the  
4 spinneret plate (3) and/or the filter arrangement (2) ~~on the one~~  
5 ~~hand and the a bore receiving it in the surrounding housing (1) on~~  
6 ~~the other hand~~ provides a slight play fit at room temperature which  
7 is transformed at operating temperatures based upon the different  
8 expansions of the parts, into a self-sealing radial press fit.

1                   6. (Currently Amended)    The spinneret according to claim  
2 1, claim 2 or claim 3 ~~characterized in that the spinneret plate~~  
3 ~~(3) is comprised of a material with a higher thermal expansion~~  
4 ~~coefficient than the material of the housing (1) surrounding it and~~  
5 ~~that the spinneret plate (3) has in its a lower half additionally~~  
6 ~~formed with a thread provided which is directly screwed into the~~  
7 ~~housing (1) whereby the thread and the stop of the spinneret plate~~  
8 ~~(3) and forming a stop in the housing (1) are so such formed that~~  
9 ~~the a spinning orifice pattern of the spinneret plate~~ always has  
10 the same orientation ~~so that the correct blast on the filaments as~~  
11 ~~they are spun is ensured by the screwing of the spinneret plate (3)~~  
12 ~~to its stop.~~

1                   7. (Currently Amended)    The spinneret according to claim  
2 1, claim 2 or claim 3 characterized in that the housing (1) has at  
3 its lower end a projecting collar which has at least three grooves  
4 for receiving a tool for screwing the spinning system in and out  
5 and in that the spinneret plate (3) is thereby protected against  
6 detrimental contact during handling.